

ELEMENTAL – Week 1: Revelation (Re)

We are excited to take this journey with you into God's Word. For the next 9 weeks, the purpose of this devotional study is to hear first-hand from God what Christians have been hearing from Him for the past 2,000 years. We live in a day of second-hand information: teachers, pundits, reporters, preachers, authors, etc. Most of us have little more than a vicarious understanding of the Elemental beliefs that define who we are as the church... that define who we are as Christians.

We pray this next 9 weeks will be an opportunity for you to hear from God 1st hand as you draw near to Him through His revealed Word – the Bible.

A little about how to use this:

Each week will have 5 readings related to the sermon that was preached at the beginning of the week. Think of the sermon as an introduction, and the 5 readings and thought-provoking questions as your further exploration and opportunity to hear from God.

Day 1: John 1:9-18

1. John describes Jesus as the true light of revelation that enlightens everyone (v.9). How was He received by the world? His people? The children of God?
2. Verse 14 tells us that the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. How do verses 14-18 describe this "Word become flesh...?"
3. Even though no one has ever "seen God," what does this passage say God is trying to reveal about Himself through Jesus?
4. "What is one evidence of God's grace through Jesus that you have experienced since becoming a believer?"

Day 2: Exodus 3:13-17

1. What is God revealing in this passage?
2. What does God want his people to know?
3. What does God want us to know from His revelation about Himself in our times of suffering or affliction?

What we believe is what makes us

Day 3: Matthew 17:1-12

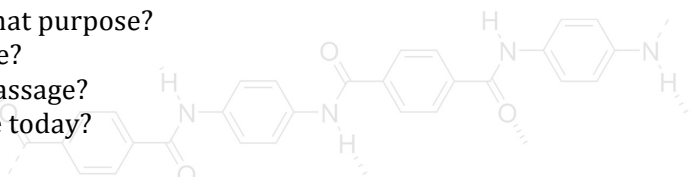
1. What is God revealing in this passage?
2. What does God's revelation tell us about temporary and eternal?
3. What does God's word reveal about the relationship between suffering and restoration?

Day 4: Ephesians 3:1-10

1. What is God revealing in this passage?
2. What is the "mystery" that is revealed in this passage?
3. What role does the church have in God's revelation? To whom is God "revealing" through the church?

Day 5: Revelation 1:1-7

1. What is God revealing in this passage? For what purpose?
2. How does God reveal His word in this passage?
3. What God reveal about His kingdom in this passage?
4. How does this revelation encourage us to live today?



Life Group Questions For Discussion

Use any or as many of these questions as will be helpful for your discussion.

- What has God spoken to you about this week regarding the sermon or passage(s)?
- What does this passage reveal to us about Jesus (and His ministry)?
- How does this passage enhance our understanding of the Gospel?
- What do these texts mean for us as a community? Individually? How does it free us to be the people God intends us to be?
- What are some of the reasons we give for *not* reading Scripture?
- Describe one of the richest experiences you've ever had reading Scripture.
- What is the process we can use to ensure that we discern the actual Author's intent when reading Scripture?
- How do / would you respond to someone who does not believe that the Bible is God's revealed truth? What is the evidence you would use to demonstrate that it is?
- If you could get God to answer one question you have about Scripture, what would it be? So, assuming that He will not speak an answer audibly to you, where can you get that answer?

Memory Verses (Fighter Verses)

This Week: Psalm 119:11

Prayer Focus

For the Vision and Direction of Bethel – Both Campuses:

Bethel Bible Church will be a people that experience life-change together. We will seek to understand more deeply what we profess as we experience the transforming grace and power of Jesus.

Missionary Support

Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF) is looking for volunteers who would like to serve at this year's East Texas State Fair. This is a great opportunity for your family to serve and make an eternal impact on the life of a child. Fair dates this year are Sept. 23-Oct 2. Call Rebecca at (903) 780-9203 to schedule a time to serve. This is an opportunity to serve *and* pray for the work of the Gospel at the fair this year!

In Response to the Text: *What we believe is what makes us*

- Praising God for His special revelation in sending His Son.
- Praising God for His accessibility through His Word, by His Son, and with His Spirit.
- Confessing our apathy in terms of striving to hear from God.
- Confessing our lack of zeal for knowledge Him.
- Thanking God that He has revealed so much to us.
- Thanking God for the riches of His grace we receive in Jesus.
- Asking God to give us the desire to know Him more deeply and to search Scripture as deep calls out to deep (*Psalm 42:7*).
- Asking God to make Jesus so much more valuable to than anything else in our life.

Further Resources for Study and Preparation

Living By The Book – Howard Hendricks

The Blue Parakeet – Scott McKnight

How To Read The Bible For All It's Worth – Gordon Fee

Next Week's Text:

John 14:15-31

